For providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30000/- per year to BPL families in the unorganised sector, the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' was launched on 1st October, 2007. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008.

Similarly, to provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana."

One more scheme, namely the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for old age pension to all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below the poverty line.

Apart from the above, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme ensures livelihood security to the households in rural areas by providing a guarantee of wage employment for at least 100 days in a financial year to every rural household whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

As far as formal labour contracts are concerned, a Task Force has been constituted on the recommendation of the 42nd Session of the Indian Labour Conference to revisit the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. The first meeting of the Task Force has been scheduled for 17th July, 2009.

Pending provident fund dues of employees in Punjab

522. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending as on 1st April, 2009 against the employers in Punjab for non payment/shut payment of provident fund dues of the employees, the number of those cases pending for more than three years;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken against the defaulters for speedy disposal of these cases; and

(c) in the absence of the disposal of cases, how the dues of retiring/deceased employees are finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) 3279 cases for non payment of provident fund dues of the employees were pending against the employers in Punjab. Out of this, 763 cases were pending for more than three years.

(b) Steps taken against defaulters are as under:

- Recovery actions under section 8 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are initiated against defaulters.
- Dues are assessed under section 7A of the Act.
- Prosecution is also filed against defaulters.
- Steps are taken to vacate the stay granted by Hon'ble Courts/Tribunals.
- Claims filed before the official liquidator in case of defaulters in liquidation.

(c) In case of running establishments, payments are made to the members as per available amount in the office record and supplementary payments of balance amounts are made as and when the dues are recovered from the establishment.

In case of closed establishments, if the establishment fulfils the required condition for operation of Special Reserve Fund, full payment of PF dues are made by operating the Special Reserve Fund.

Pension cases in respect of retired/deceased employees are settled on the basis of contribution received/receivable.

Jobs lost due to global slump

523. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had admitted that half a million workers lost their jobs in India due to global slump;

(b) whether this figure was given by his Ministry for the quarter October-December, 2008;

(c) whether an unprecedented study commissioned by the Ministry covered 2581 units across 11 States and Union Territories;

(d) whether the sectors included textile, garments, metal products etc.; and

(e) if so, what were other main points mentioned in the survey report and the steps being considered to provide jobs to people in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The major effect of economic slowdown on employment in India during October-December, 2008 was observed in the export oriented units. The overall decline in employment was observed in gems & jewellery, transport, automobiles, metals, textiles and mining by 8.58%, 4.03%, 2.42%, 1.91 %, 0.91 % and 0.33% respectively.

The action taken by the Government to control the effect on economy and employment due to global slump and economic slowdown in India include three stimulus packages, various measures announced by the Reserve Bank of India, implementation of the 'Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana' wherein the insured worker and his family are entitled to about 50% of wages upto a period of one year and medical benefits in the case of loss of job, schemes such as Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, Aam Admi Bima Yojana, and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, skill upgradation/training programmes, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme etc.

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

†524.SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi